

## REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 22, and 23 are currently pending herein with Claims 1, 5, and 15 being independent claims. All claims stand rejected.

### ***35 U.S.C. § 112:***

Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. These claims have been amended.

### ***Claim Objections:***

Claims 10 and 18 were objected to regarding the spelling of the term “tyre”. These claims have been amended. *See*, however, MPEP § 608.01. The Applicant notes that such an amendment in no way changes the scope of the claims.

### ***35 U.S.C. § 102:***

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,905,225 to Joynt. The Applicant submits that the amendments made herein overcome the rejection. Specifically, the limitations of dependent Claim 13, concerning the laminates being oriented to extend laterally outwardly. Joynt provides armoring against a self forming fragment type landmine using a high speed projectile of high penetrating power. Specifically, the armoring includes an outer wear plate 12, an inner catch plate 18, and an intermediate impact absorbent layer 16. The purpose of the outwear plate 12 is to protect the impact absorbing layer 16 from damage due to small caliber fire and at the same time to absorb

some of the energy created when a high velocity projectile strikes the armoring. The intermediate energy absorbing layer 16 tends to absorb the projectile and the blast of the landmine. Based upon the distance to the point of detonation, the area over which the blast extends may increase so as to further improve the amount of energy that can be dissipated. The material of the inner most plate 24 is selected so as to reduce the risk that a projectile will penetrate therethrough.

Joynt, however, lacks any structure that would channel the blast in the direction other than the direction that it would naturally travel. In the present case, however, use is made of the shockwave guide member that includes a laminate construction with the laminates oriented such that they extend upwardly and outwardly away from the blast site. Such an orientation causes the shock wave and blast to be diverted away from its normal path so as to reduce the risk of damage to the vehicle. The Applicant thus submits that independent Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

With respect to independent Claims 5 and 15, the same amendments have been made. The Applicant thus submits that independent Claims 5 and 15, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,533,781 to Williams. The Applicant submits that the amendments made herein overcome the rejection. In Williams, use is made of ballistic panels to resist the penetration of shrapnel through the floor of a vehicle. The panels rely on the construction to prevent the penetration of shrapnel, but the panels are not configured to deflect the direction of the blast away from its natural direction as is claimed herein. The Applicant

thus submits that independent Claims 1, 5, and 15, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

Claims 1-10 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,565,412 to Commige, et al. The Applicant again submits that the amendments made herein overcome the rejection. In Commige, a tract vehicle had a molded fiberglass shoe. The shoe facilitates the replacement of a link of a track. Commige further makes use of single road wheels, as opposed to double road wheels so as to permit a blast to pass the road wheel with less obstruction and potentially less damage. The road wheel has a particular structure in which the rim is supported by a number of spaced apart deformable rings. Commige, however, lacks any suggestion that the arrangement described therein is intended to cause deflection of the shockwave and/or blast away from its natural direction. The Applicant thus submits that independent Claims 1, 5, and 15, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent Claims, 2, 6, and 11, concerning the shockwave guide member with a material having an acoustic speed of higher than about 6000 meters per second. Such a material offers low resistance to the propagation of shockwaves so as to encourage the deflection of the shockwaves in a desired direction and to minimize potential damage to the vehicle. The Applicant submits that the cited references are silent on such.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent Claims 3, 7, and 16 concerning the tracks being located in at least one well of a bogey wheel and above a bottom rung. This particular arrangement serves to provide an almost continuous barrier so as to enable

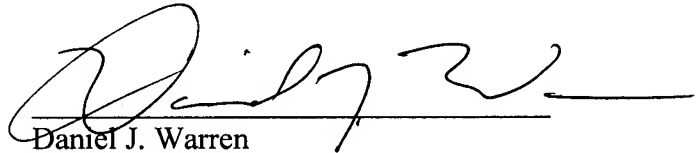
the shockwave and blast to be deflected laterally outwardly irrespective to the point of detonation. The Applicant submits that the cited references are silent on such.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent Claim 12 concerning the construction of the guide member. Specifically, the laminates of materials having a high acoustic speed are sandwiched in between layers of material having a relatively low acoustic speed. The layers of low acoustic speed offer a high resistance to the propagation of shockwaves. As such, shockwaves being conducted along the material of high acoustic speed thus reach the layer of low acoustic speed and hence will be deflected back. This deflection further assists in guiding the shockwaves in the desired direction away from the vehicle. The Applicant submits that the cited references are silent on such.

**CONCLUSION**

The Applicant believes it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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